

## Appendix B

### Backcountry/Wilderness Cultural Resources Protection Protocols

These protocols have been developed as a way to protect cultural resources while not delaying trail work and backcountry campsite restoration, establishing spike camps, or negatively impacting visitor use. The usual procedure when ground-disturbing activities are involved is that the park archeologist conducts a survey in advance of any action. However, that may be impractical with most of the trail and campsite restoration activities in the backcountry and wilderness, especially with numerous projects having to be accomplished in a very short season due to weather conditions. Following these protocols will also help document cultural resources per several Federal laws and National Park Service (NPS) regulations.

The Servicewide Programmatic Agreement of July 17, 1995 stipulates that no State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) or other review outside the Park is required for trail work providing that the “undertaking meets requirements for programmatic exclusion under Stipulation IV.B.(6) for rehabilitation and widening of existing trails, walks, paths, and sidewalks within *previously disturbed areas*”. No categorical exclusion exists for campsite restoration. However, we can use the “*previously disturbed area*” exclusion as a model for the following procedures for backcountry and wilderness work.

A survey is required for any new trail, any new designated campsite and any expansion of an existing designated campsite in “*previously undisturbed areas*”. A survey is usually not needed for normal trail rehabilitation unless it crosses a known site, routine campsite restoration if it stays within the original campsite footprint and the digging or relocating of privies if associated with a designated campsite providing the following protocols are observed. If in doubt, contact the park archeologist prior to conducting any work.

1. To avoid possible impacts to archeological sites, the work leader of any backcountry or wilderness project should contact the park archeologist prior to beginning any work to see if there are any known sites in the proximity of the project. If there are, the park archeologist will provide special instructions on how to proceed.
2. Work crews must be able to identify archeological items. As needed or requested, the park archeologist or other qualified person will conduct a training session for work crews on cultural resources topics such as the identification of prehistoric chipped stone tools, features, or structures. Anyone with questions or not familiar with these items should seek assistance before doing any trail work, campsite restoration or establishment of spike camps or similar work.
3. Work crews are not to gather borrow dirt to fix the trails or campsites from terraces or other flat areas along streams or lakes (areas of high potential for containing sites), or in the vicinity of known prehistoric or historic archeological sites.
4. Any dirt or rock brought into repair a trail or campsite must not come from an archeological site, a possible ARPA violation in its own right, or from soils which might contain stone tool raw materials. In the future, the park may require certification from the fill material providers that no archeological sites have been impacted in its excavation. This would help avoid being a party to an ARPA violation.

5. Rocks are not to be removed from any hearth, collapsed historic fireplace, rock cairn, or rock wall (e.g., if you find a pile of rocks, or rocks in circular or linear arrangement, leave them alone). Do not establish any sort of a camp in their vicinity if at all possible, the area may be on an archeological site.
6. Prehistoric items found in an existing trail or campsite are to be picked up and their location plotted on a map (a copy of a portion of a U.S. Geological Survey [USGS] is fine). If possible, photograph the item showing the location of the site in relation to some easily recognizable feature or landmark before it is collected. Once this is done, the work crew may proceed to work on the trail or campsite considering the above items. If anything is found, the park archeologist will record it and may check out the area to see if the trail or campsite has cut through or eroded into an existing site and make recommendations to management for possible future reroute, relocation or other protection measures.

The prehistoric items most likely to be found are flakes and tools. It is important to note that there is no source (quarry) for chipped stone tool material in the park: (e.g., if it isn't granite, prehistoric Native Americans have possibly brought it into the park). When in doubt, pick it up and contact the park archeologist. Flakes are the small (ca. an inch or smaller in size), thin, flat, pieces of non-granite stone removed from a larger nodule. These larger nodules are tools and/or are made into formal tools such as arrowheads, scrapers, knives, and drills. Lyons sandstone (the salmon colored rock from the quarries near Lyons) has also been brought into the park by prehistoric inhabitants.

7. Structures and features that may be found in the park include rock line hearths, rock walls, rock cairns, U-shaped structures of rock, prehistoric wickiups of aspen and historic log structures. If any of these types of structures or features are found, photograph if possible, document the location and contact the park archeologist.

The wickiups look like tipis but they are made of aspen, most are collapsed, but some are standing in the fork of a pine tree or against a large rock. Presently there are no known standing wickiups in the park. Collapsed wickiups have the following characteristics: they are usually found on benches, terraces, or ridges above meadows and usually are not located very close to water. The 10 to 12 foot long poles are almost always aspen and are very rarely cut with an ax. The collapsed pile looks like a pile of pick-up-sticks. If you mentally anchor the tree butts in the ground (they will form a rough circle about 8-10 feet in diameter), and then mentally raise them one by one, you should get a tipi-like structure. Do not physically try to raise them, avoid impacting the site.

8. If any bones suspected to be human are found they are to be covered up and otherwise protected. If the bones still have clothing on them they are probably fairly recent, do not disturb the area. Contact a law enforcement ranger and the park archeologist as soon as possible. They will determine the course of action to be taken. Do not use the radio if at all possible in either instance. The integrity and security of the site may depend upon it.

9. Privies at established campsites and day use destination areas may be relocated as needed, provided that if any archeological items are found, work must stop and the park archeologist notified. The park archeologist will determine if further survey is needed before the work may continue. The digging of privies in totally new locations require consultation with the park archeologist before the project begins.
10. The location of a temporary spike camp may require a survey. The park archeologist will be contacted well in advance to determine if there are any known cultural sites in the proposed area, if a survey is needed and if there are any specific protocols to follow. Generally, spike camps should not be located on terraces, above or within close proximity to permanent water (that is where sites are usually located), and care must be taken with locations on ridges well away from water. Spike camps may not be located in any area where any chipped stone tools or structures are found. If these items are found when looking for a spike camp location, follow the procedures in Item 6 and find another location for the spike camp. By practicing the Leave No Trace principles on minimum impact, archeological sites may be avoided altogether, which will result in not having a new archeological site to record and manage.

These protocols will be reviewed annually and revised as needed. These protocols may be rescinded at any time if they are not followed, do not work and/or if a site is ever impacted. This may result in a survey being required for all backcountry/wilderness projects, which will cause considerable delay in accomplishing the work.

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